

Sample GOSPEL Outline

The following is meant to be both something to study and familiarize yourself with in preparing to volunteer. It is not meant to be your game plan for each conversation. We are not looking for anyone to memorize this or try to use it word for word.

Here are four basic principles or steps for understanding how to have a relationship with God.

Step One - God's Purpose: To Know and be with Him

God loves you and created you to know him personally. He wants you to experience a life that is in right relationship with him and full of peace. We have the freedom to decide where to spend eternity, but God desires it to be with him.

- "We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1
- "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16
- "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." John 10:10

Step Two - The Problem: Sin Separates us from God

We often try to reach God on our own terms or in our own ways. We try to be good and give of our time and money to help others. Those are good things, but they won't erase the sin that separates us from God. The Bible tells us that every man has sinned against God. It also says that sin separates us from God.

- "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23
- "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23
- "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death" Proverbs 14:12
- "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear." Isaiah 59:2

Step Three - God's Bridge: Jesus Christ and the Cross

We cannot earn our way or build a bridge between God and ourselves. What God wants you to know is that He did this through His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus died on the Cross and rose from the grave. He paid the penalty for our sin and bridged the gap between God and all of us. It is His death alone that can bridge the gap between God and us.

- "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ." 1 Timothy 2:5
- "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God." 1 Peter 3:18
- "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8
- "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

Step Four - Your Response: Receive Christ

God has provided a way for you to go to Heaven through Jesus Christ. Jesus removed the sin problem by paying your penalty when He died on the cross. However, we must accept that gift to receive forgiveness. You walk across that bridge by putting your FAITH in Jesus Christ as your Savior and by personally inviting Him into your heart. Then you will understand what it means to experience God's love and know God personally.

- "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12
- "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9
- "For by **grace** you have been saved through **faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

God has made it possible for you to be in a right relationship with Him and to know for certain that if you were to die today, you would spend eternity with Him in heaven. It is by Faith and FAITH alone in Jesus Christ. This is more than intellectual agreement. It means turning to God from sin/self and trusting Jesus to forgive and make us what he wants us to be.

Summary of how to receive Christ:

1. **ADMIT** to God that you are a **sinner** in need of forgiveness.
2. **BELIEVE** that **Jesus Christ died** for you and rose from the grave.
3. **INVITE** Jesus Christ, by **Faith**, to come into your life and forgive you of your sins.
4. **REPENT** – Tell God you want him in your life and are willing to let him change you.

This outline is meant to help a seeker pray but not through formulas. Once we have shared the Gospel, we often seek a "rule" or process we can follow to have someone pray to accept Jesus. The Holy Spirit ultimately saves us so focus on the big picture and not just the prayer. Remember to be a good listener to truly identify what is driving the heart of the seeker. When we are listening, we can hear when they are not looking to make Jesus their Lord and Savior as much as they are looking to receive some blessing (such as an addiction to disappear or life success). In these cases, we have to explain the bigger picture of sin, separation and redemption first. We can then get into how becoming a Christian does not mean all our challenges go away or every prayer is answered according to what we seek. This process does not lend itself easily to a single outline or approach that works for all. It is all about meeting people where they are and sharing the Gospel in the context of their life issues.

As you share the entire Gospel, try to determine if the seeker truly understands it and is desiring to put Jesus into a position of priority in their life. We all get in trouble when we cut corners, focus simply on forgiveness, or offer simple prayers with no context to their situation and actual understanding of the Gospel. Encourage them that God knows what is in their heart and he always keeps his promises. Help them talk with God directly. Don't just offer to pray for them but actually pray with them.